

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

SEP 23 1944

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NRC
Sex Research
(Kinsey)

Copy to Yerkes

No repudiation
Credit to NRC -
Item of criticism clearance

August 26, 1944

Dr. Alan Gregg
Rockefeller Foundation
Rockefeller Center
New York, New York

AG		AG	9/18/44
RAL		RM	

My dear Dr. Gregg:

Dr. Yerkes tells me that he has sent you copies of two letters of a correspondence which he has had with me. Since you have seen these letters, I am sending you a copy of Dr. Yerkes' earlier letter to me.

Neither of Dr. Yerkes' letters makes it clear to me whether the Rockefeller Foundation objects to the association of its name with this research, or whether the question is one of confining all credit to the National Research Council's Committee.

As to the source of the funds which Dr. Yerkes' Committee has appropriated for our work, I have, in the past, had Dr. Yerkes' own statement, I have had your statement, there is the published statement in the annual report of the National Research Council, and there is the published statement in the annual report of the Rockefeller Foundation that most of the funds, if not all of the funds which Dr. Yerkes' Committee has put into our particular project, have come from the Rockefeller Foundation. No one has previously advised me that it was inappropriate to name the source of these funds, and since there are many hundreds of professional persons, especially in the Eastern areas, who are well acquainted with this connection between the Rockefeller Foundation and the Yerkes committee, it would seem a difficult matter to publicly deny what is so generally known. I do not understand Dr. Yerkes repeated statement that the Rockefeller Foundation is not supporting the work, and has no responsibility in connection therewith. He evidently has in mind a technical distinction which it would be difficult to have outsiders understand.

I should be glad to know whether you, your Division, or the Rockefeller Foundation as a whole, wishes to have its connection with this work repudiated.

It should be explained that this apparent connection between the Rockefeller Foundation and the research has been the source of material help during the past year. In the year, we have secured the histories

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of a couple of hundred top-ranking physicians and psychiatrists, have had the entree to the entire group of medical schools in Philadelphia, and have had the liveliest interest expressed in our work by such psychiatric groups as those at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, the State Psychiatric Hospital in Philadelphia, the Menninger Clinic, privately practicing psychiatrists in both New York and Philadelphia, and by local and national psychiatric organizations who are scheduling us for their programs within the coming year. The cooperation of the medical and psychiatric group is of inestimable value in having the work accepted when it is published. The discussions which we have had with these groups during the past year and the insight which we have had into their thinking will make it possible for us to avoid errors and to anticipate criticisms prior to publication. We might have wasted a great deal of our energy answering pointless criticisms subsequent to publication if we had not had these opportunities for discussions with medical groups prior to publication. I imply no criticism, but I think I state a fact with which you must be familiar when I say that the medical profession is skeptical of research which is done by other than medical groups, and the known connection between our research and the Rockefeller Foundation has, without question, been a considerable factor in giving us access to these groups during the past year. Since the medical and psychiatric groups will have more use for our data than any other group, upon its publication in technical form, it has seemed to us proper that we should establish relations with this group in the course of our work. While the National Research Council is known to scientists, it has been our repeated experience that the public in general, and even a considerable portion of the medical group, do not know of the organization, and have been more inclined to consider our work because of its support by funds from your Foundation. There is no doubt that the draft deferments which we have for our staff could not have been obtained during this last period if you had not written with the name of the Foundation behind you. However, I think that I have always associated the name of the National Research Council's Committee and the Rockefeller Foundation wherever we were dealing with a group intelligent enough to understand such organizations.

Dr. Yerkes proposes a meeting between the three of us and I should, of course, be very glad to arrange this whenever you wish. I am sending Dr. Yerkes a copy of this letter.

The research has been more difficult than any one except two or three members of the immediate staff can realize. It has involved meeting tens of thousands of people of all social levels, winning their confidence, and persuading them to confide histories which, in eighty-five

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per cent of the males, involved possibility of legal action if the confidences were divulged. There have been hundreds of people who have gone considerably out of their way to interfere with the work for no other reason than their desire to prevent all scientific investigation of sex. We have been arrested, investigated by sheriffs, and repeatedly stood up by the police. We have met and satisfactorily come through all of these thousands of obstacles, and, in nearly every case, without having to refer to the University or anyone back of us for support.

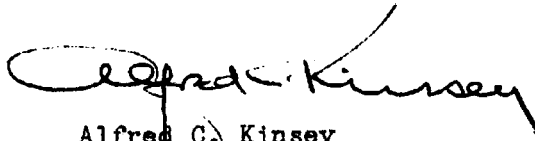
The gathering of the necessary quantity of data to do this thing right could be a century-long process if it were not pushed with all the energy and long hours of work which belief in the value of the research engenders. The staff has worked long hours; and for weeks at a stretch, while in the field, we have worked 15 and 16 hours per day for 6 and often 7 days of the week. For three years, I supported all of the research out of my own pocket, and only when I reached the limit of my financial capacity did I ask for help from anyone. The financial support which we have had during the past three years has made it possible to accomplish at a rate which even I had never hoped for. The 6300 histories which we now have are 31 times as many as in the best of the published studies, and 21 times as many as in the largest of the published studies. In spite of the handicaps of war situations, and the amount of time that it has taken to fight for deferments of staff, for gas and tire rationing, for priorities on laboratory equipment, etc., we have built a staff which is now equipped to work at still higher speed. There is no question that, with reasonable support and lack of interference, we can accumulate such a body of data as will be the ultimate source of information in this field for a century to come.

We are ready to assume all the difficulties and responsibilities for the way in which individual problems should be met and solved; but any source of support for the work must, on occasion, be willing to defend it when particular questions are raised. We hear a thousand objections, and satisfy them, for every one that gets through to the Administration of the University, or to Dr. Yerkes' Committee, or to the Foundation. The Administration of Indiana University, to the surprise of some outsiders, has splendidly met what criticisms have come its way and defended us on every occasion. We must have that sort of support from any other source that contributes in any way to the research.

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There is no organization that can support us better, in most cases merely by acknowledging its support, than your own Rockefeller Foundation.

After you have had an opportunity to consider the several angles of this question, I should be glad to have your advice on the matter.



Alfred C. Kinsey
Professor of Zoology

ACK:cas
Enclosure